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Sen. Laura Toy announces K-12 budget clears Senate

LANSING – The Michigan Senate sent a school aid budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to the governor which includes a \$210 per-pupil funding increase, as well as an extra \$20 million to help local school districts experiencing declining enrollment, said state Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District.

“Education is critical to our state’s economic future,” Sen. Toy said. “The investments we make in our young people today are also an investment in the workforce of tomorrow.”

The K-12 schools budget approved by the Senate once again spares cuts to hold-harmless funding, also known as 20j monies, which are an integral part of the budgets of Livonia Public Schools and Clarenceville Schools, according to Sen. Toy.

Toy has championed the fight to protect this funding during her time in the Senate.

“I am committed to ensuring that we are supplying our schools with the resources they need,” Sen. Toy said.

Sen. Toy was also able to secure an additional \$800,000 in funding for Garden City schools by getting mills being levied by the district in 1993 to fund an operating deficit included in the district’s foundation allowance calculation for the first time since the passage of Proposal A.

“We are very grateful for all of Senator Laura Toy’s hard work in Lansing on our behalf,” said Garden City Public Schools Superintendent Richard Witkowski. “This funding would not be in place without Senator Toy’s efforts and diligence.”

The school aid budget, Senate Bill 1095, must now go to the governor for review. If approved by the governor, it will go into effect at the start of the state’s new fiscal year which begins on October 1, 2006.

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